



GRACE HAPPENINGS

A WORD FROM PASTOR JON:

SPIRIT-LESS CHRISTIANITY VS. SPIRIT FILLED CHRISTIANITY

Exodus 34:4, 10

Moses chiseled out two **stone tablets** like the first ones and went up to Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the Lord had commanded him . . . Then the Lord said: I am making a covenant with you . . .

Jeremiah 31:31-33

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will **not** be like the covenant when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them . . . **I will put My law in their minds and write it on their hearts.** I will be their God and they will be My people.

2 Corinthians 3:3

You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, **not on tablets of stone** but on **tablets of human hearts.**

Note the progression of the Old Covenant to the New Covenant starting in Exodus 34, on through Jeremiah 31, and into 2 Corinthians 3:3. As we see in the Old Covenant, the law was written on stone. Now, in the New Covenant, we see the law written on the hearts and minds of Christ followers via the Holy Spirit.

However, how many believers are trying to live out the Christian life based on Old Testament principles that Jesus came to revolutionize? Old covenant principles sound something like this: *'Try hard; fail. Try hard; fail,* etc. This becomes an endless and exhausting cycle. The constant question rings: What can I do to please God? The answer is: absolutely nothing. Nothing **we can do** in our flesh can please God.

Spiritless Christianity relies on external regulations. Please understand, the law is not bad, the law is good. The problem is we cannot keep the demands of the law. Spiritless Christianity relies on our performance for God. When we do this, we start to add to the law like the Israelites did. It becomes man-saturated. Paul addresses this in 2 Corinthians 3. This type of lifestyle results in self-condemnation (2 Cor. 3:7). Apart from a new heart from Christ, no external regulation matters.

As God spoke through His prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31), we see a foreshadowing of Christ putting His law (i.e. His Spirit) in the hearts of believers. Meaning, He would give us a new heart, not tablets of stone. As spirit-filled Christians we are desperate for His Spirit to guide us, lead us; we do not want to make one move without His leading. We need Him to change us from the inside out. It is Christ in us. It is **Christ** changing us, not us relying on **our** performance.

Spirit-filled Christianity relies on Christ's performance for us. This strikes at our sinful desire for self-sufficiency and we don't like that. Ever hear the old cliché: "God helps those who help themselves"? (i.e. - self-sufficiency). The problem with this is it is completely unbiblical. It *should* read: "God helps those who **CAN'T** help themselves." All of us fit in that category. We cannot do anything apart from His Spirit. When we try, that's when our hearts can turn into "stone." As new creations in Christ, we live according to His Spirit written on our hearts.

The holiday of Pentecost is a celebration of the law. However, what happened as recorded in the book of Acts during Pentecost? It is **the Spirit** who showed up through the Apostle Paul and 3,000 came to life in Christ that day! Not by stone tablets, but instead via a new heart. Hearts of stone were cracked and the Spirit entered in. The Spirit results in salvation and life. Trying to live the Christian life without His Spirit results in nothing more than superficial Christianity, which we must avoid like the plague. We need His Spirit to

July 2017

Here am I. Send me!

Isaiah 6:8 – Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"
Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

move in us, control us. This is fundamental. We need to desperately seek His Spirit.

Only God gets the glory. If we have the Spirit we will want His glory. When we realize our need for the Spirit, we will receive an insatiable desire to give Him the glory. This is the absolute essence of biblical Christianity, where there is no room for self-glorification. Once we get a glimpse of the glory of God, we can't help but glorify Him. We become living demonstrations of the glory of Christ. Be desperate for His Spirit and desperate for His glory. This is not just for us, but for *the veiled faces* all around us as noted in 2 Cor. 4:4: The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. **For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord!**

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Pray for our shut-ins, send a card, make a phone call, pay a visit (call first), make a meal and deliver it or stay and eat with them, pick up groceries / medicines. Addresses and phone numbers are in the directory or put cards of encouragement in the box above the mailboxes in the library and they will be delivered on a regular basis.

Wilma Davidson
Julie Lindsey
Gerry Kline
Russ Hearton
Jack Goeke

Carol Sarver
John Gay
Nina Johnson
Gerry Gladfelder
Wanda Buttrey

I not only know who I am.
I also know where I am going.

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Sunday:	8:15	Contemporary Worship
	9:30	Sunday School
	10:45	Traditional Worship
	6:30	Against the Flow Youth
	6:30	Evening Worship Service
Wednesday:	7:00	Bible Study & Prayer for Adults / Pioneer Clubs / Against the Flow Youth

Rev. Steve Warner Senior Pastor	Rev. Jon Barrett Assistant Pastor
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2017 GRADUATE



Anna Kowalski graduated this year from Eastern York High School. "My activities included: Concert Band (percussion), Jazz Band (vibraphone), Orchestra (percussion), Marching Band (quints), Tri-M Music Honors Society, and Musical (pit orchestra). I was the treasurer for Marching/Concert band my junior year and secretary/librarian my senior year. I was a People to People Leadership Ambassador. I was also a part of the Lincoln Intermediate Unit through my school. I plan to attend HACC Lancaster as a current undecided major; however, I am thinking about becoming a state trooper for PA. A special memory or funny moment I would like to share is during Jazz band when I accidentally broke the vibraphone during a combined Jazz-vocal piece with vibes being the main accompaniment."

OUR HONDURAS MISSIONARIES WILL SOON BE LEAVING!

TRIP DATES: JULY 11-22

The GBC missionary committee is collecting money to purchase small giveaway items (toys, stickers, etc.) for the Honduran school children our team will be serving with a VBS program. To help, please place your cash or check written to Grace Baptist Church in an envelope (clearly marked GBC Mission Trip Kid Goodie Bags) and place it in the offering. Direct questions to Melissa Henise or Michelle Noll. The deadline to donate is July 2. Another option is to ask your dentist if he/she would donate toothpaste or toothbrushes that can be sent to the children. Letters to take to your dentist are in the library. Let's send them off with bags full of goodies!!

Meet and greet all the missionaries from GBC and Garden Spot Village on Thursday, July 6, at 6:00 p.m. during the Honduras Missionary Send-off Potluck Dinner. Bring a side and dessert to share. **Sign-up sheets are at both church entrances.**

We should all be in prayer for the missionaries in their final preparations and during the trip for their safety, good health, work while in Honduras, and planting seeds of the Gospel message.



**INDEPENDENCE OR DEPENDENCE:
YOU DECIDE**

July 4, 1776, The United States of America declared independence from England. The day before, John Adams wrote a letter to Abigail Adams. Here are just a few of his comments: "It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty."

"I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost us to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these States. Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity will triumph in that Days Transaction, even altho We should rue it, which I trust in God We shall not."

C.S. Lewis' "Prince Caspian", Lucy encounters Aslan, the Christ figure of the "NARNIA" stories, after not seeing Him for a long time: "Aslan, you're bigger", she says. "That is because you're older, little one," answered He. "Not because you are?" "I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger."

The more mature in the faith we are, the bigger God will be for us. God will care for His people, (Matthew 10:29-31) as long as people care for God.

Does Jesus appear bigger to you each day? As the U.S.A. diminishes God and our "independence" separates us even further, what are you doing to help prevent this? We must be like Christ, pray for revival, share His Word, pray for ALL leaders, local, state and national, lead the lost to the cross and honor God always (I Samuel 2:30).

Let's make God great again! Put on His armor and fight the battle for dependence.

~Tom Greig

**CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS
GOOD NEWS DAY CAMP**

Daniel and the Lions Den

July 31 – August 4

9:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Boys and Girls Ages 6 to 12 Years Old

Hey kids—enjoy Bible study, crafts, recreation, missionary time, surprises, snack time and lots of fun and all for only \$25!

Transportation available if needed. Bring your lunch (with your name on it).

Registrations available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Call CEF 757-3212 for further information.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors) had a great time during their own version of VBS!!

Snack Time

B-I-B-L-E Acrostic and Memory Verses
Singing with Miss Brenda
Making Pine Cone OWLS with Miss Linda



Scavenger Hunt



Statistics from VBS:

An average of 104 children attended during the week

An average of 68 staff was on hand every night

Registered Students	123
GBC Students	72
Non-GBC Students	51
Attending Another Church (Was mailed letter, CD and church info)	28 Students 15 Families
No Church Affiliation (Will receive visit with letter, CD and church info)	23 Students 18 Families
Non-GBC Families	33

Nightly offerings totaled \$1840.66 which will purchase 61 backpacks filled with supplies for children who our missionary, Eric Sanchez, in Honduras works with.

Continue praying for the unsaved children who attended VBS that a seed was planted and that they will accept the free gift of salvation and for the school children in Honduras receiving the backpacks.